

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

Field Day 2014

Chris Price, WW4CP, and Dick Williams, W3OA

N4QT	Hal Bouton	President
W4GRW	Bill Fisher	Vice-Pres.
W3ZL	Cliff Wagoner	Sec.-Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Cluster Mgr.
W3OA	Dick Williams	Contest Mgr.
W3GQ	Paul Sturpe	W4 QSL Bureau Manager
WB4BXW	Wayne Setzer	Webmaster
NV4A	John Forbus	Editor

CDXA is planning on continuing its streak of very competitive Field Day entries. This year, Chris Price, WW4CP, will be hosting us at his house on Lake Norman just west of Mooresville, North Carolina. All stations will be in air conditioned space. We will be using the callsign W4DXA.



In 2007 and 2008 CDXA made history by setting two Field Day class records, Class 4E (home station, four transmitters, emergency power) in 2007 and Class 5E (home station, five transmitters, emergency power) in 2008. In 2009, 2010, and 2011 we won

Class 3E (home station, three transmitters, emergency power). We are out to win Class 3E again.

Here's our plan:

Time/Date: 2 p.m. Saturday, June 28th, to 2 p.m. Sunday, June 29th.
 Location: 6815 Navajo Trail, Sherrills Ford, NC (From I77, Exit 36, 12 miles west on NC 150).
 Class: 3E (home station, three transmitters, emergency power), 150 watts or less.
 Stations: Three stations in the house.
 One will be SSB, all bands, 80 through 10.
 One will be CW, 80 through 10.
 One will be CW and SSB, 40 and 15.
 Antennas: 80 – Dipoles
 40 – Dipoles
 20 – Tribanders
 15 – Tribanders, Moxon Rectangle
 10 – Tribanders

(Continued on page 2)

CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems	
K4MD (AR Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com
W4DXA (AR Cluster via Telnet)	w4dx.no-ip.com
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600)	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Skyland Family Restaurant, 4544 South Boulevard, Charlotte, NC

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Work Days: Saturday, June 21st, one week before Field Day, beginning at 9 a.m.
 Friday, June 27th, the day before Field Day, to complete set up if needed.

Members participating at W4DXA will receive an official CDXA Field Day T shirt similar to last year's shirt shown in the picture below of Steve Sullivan, KZ2I, operating W4DXA at Field Day last year. In order to be guaranteed a shirt in your size you must sign up by June 15th. When you sign up **you can also vote on a shirt color.**

We need operators - If you want to join our winning operation please contact Dick at w3oa@roadrunner.com. Let him know when you can be available and your preferred operating mode(s). There is room to sleep inside (beds or your air mattress and sleeping bag) so don't be afraid to spend the night with us. And don't forget to provide your T shirt size. Do all this by June 15th.



The Pileup

Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association
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Published monthly 10 times per year, excluding the months of June and December.

The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to "The Amateur's Code" as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Yearly dues are \$25.00. A second licensed Amateur family member living in the same household can join for \$5.00 for a total family price of \$30.00 per year. The total price for 3 or more licensed family members living in the same household is only \$35.00 per year. All family members enjoy full member status. Dues are payable annually in December by check or through the CDXA website, to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
 P. O. Box 577



DX King News
 Dick Williams, W3OA



Item 1: Full details of our DX King Contest and your chances to win a tablet computer are on page 11 of the [January Pileup](#).

Item 2: Here are the DX King scores I have as of April 30:

Call	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
K7BV	Unlimited	244	40	284
K5EK	Unlimited	240	40	280
W4HG	Unlimited	235	40	275
WA4DT	Unlimited	231	40	271
K8YC	Unlimited	209	39	248
W7DO	Unlimited	191	39	230
N4PQX	Unlimited	190	40	230
W3ZL	Formula	193	36	229
W3GQ	Unlimited	181	38	219
KZ2I	Unlimited	171	40	211
W4UFO	Unlimited	166	34	200
W3OA	Unlimited	159	38	197
K2SX	Unlimited	151	39	190
N2TU	Unlimited	152	37	189
NV4A	Unlimited	149	36	185
AA4SC	Unlimited	144	40	184
NK0S	Unlimited	120	35	155
K4DXA	Unlimited	109	32	141
W4WNT	Formula	102	27	129
WA4DT	Unlimited	92	30	122
W4CWA	Unlimited	84	27	111

Item 3: Don't forget to send me (w3oa@roadrunner.com) your DX marathon scores as of the last day of each month after your score reaches 100.

RARSfest a Success for CDXA

CDXA, including the K4 N4 W4 QSL Bureau, was well represented at the 42nd Annual RARSFest and ARRL Roanoke Division Convention, held in Raleigh on April 19. The reports from all who attended and helped out in our booth were very positive. Here are Paul, W3GQ, Wayne KU4V, Nyles KS4S, and Robert W4MBD, standing in front of the booth. Bill, W4GRW, also attended and says he spent most of his time "...walking around talking to people, and received very positive feedback about the CDXA from those in attendance. Wearing a CDXA shirt and CDXA nametag, several people approached me and said they didn't know there was a DX club in NC...." Thanks to all those who participated, now they know! We got some great publicity and an increased awareness of the Club, and we had five new members sign up.



We'll also have....

...a booth at the Shelby Hamfest, Labor Day weekend (30-31 August.) Once again, the preregistration prize for the Hamfest will be a HYGAIN TH-3MK4 – 10/15/20 beam. ...so that's two good reasons to go to Shelby this year, not to mention all the usual goodies you can find there. So, we'll see you there.

New Members

Speaking of the new members who joined at RARSFest, they are listed below. Welcome to CDXA, and thanks for joining!

AE4FG, Kelly Mills, 6408 Dresden Ln., Raleigh, NC 27612, 919-846-5375, longbch@gmail.com

N3ND, Dan Atchison, 1160 Woodland Church Rd., Wake Forest, NC 27587, 443-340-0147, n3nd@aol.com

W4DAO, Doug Outlaw, 143 Timberlane Dr., Littleton, NC 27850

N4GBK, Bill Garwood, P.O. Box 383, Hertford, NC 27944, 252-267-7627, n4gbk@outlook.com

K4GCJ, Gerry Jacobs, 14105 Allison Dr., Raleigh, NC 27615, 919-847-3472, jacobs@helixgroup.com

This brings our latest member count to 201.

From the "Oops, We Have Some Extra Space" Division of the *Pileup*

I'm not much good at sports, to put it mildly. That hasn't kept me from trying a few non-ham related sports over the years though, and developing some basic thoughts on things.

...for instance, I used to skydive (...really, don't ask me why, with my lack of basic coordination and usually bad luck.) Anyway, it cured my fear of heights ...but it made me afraid of the ground.

I've also tried, mostly unsuccessfully, bowling (...best score ever was probably in the mid-180s, average around 120) and golf (My handicap never got below 34, ...enough said.) Anyway, what I don't understand is why somebody can't figure out how to combine golf and bowling. That would be great, 'cause it's a lot easier to find a bowling ball in the woods.

The Wayback Machine

This month we're going back to the '50s to look at one ham's experience with the FCC, complements of Ken Cannaday, W4NZC. He originally wrote this article in 2000, and it was published by the Metro Amateur Club. Ken (...and John) gave us permission to reprint it.

John's Trip to the FCC

Ken Cannaday, W4NZC

Here's a ham radio exam story that my long time buddy KZ4B (ex K4ESJ) tells.

John's novice days were in the late 1950's. He and I both lived in Charlotte and the nearest exam was in Winston-Salem, an hour and a half away. Exams were given four times a years. John and I were both 12 or 13 years old so he had to depend on his mother to drive him to Winston-Salem. John's mother did not have a high opinion of ham radio. She told him that he'd damn well better pass his General on the first try because she was not going to make the trip to Winston but once. The pressure was on.

When John arrived at Reynolds High School in Winston, the auditorium was packed. The other examinees seemed to all have slide rules, and that scared John. Not only did he not have one, he didn't even know how to use one. "Do I need a slide rule for this exam?" he asked. "Hell yes!" one of the older men said. However, before the exam began, John found out that those guys were all taking commercial exams.

The first part of the exam was code; if you didn't pass that, you went home. If you passed the receiving portion, then you had to send with a hand key (unless you brought your own bug), but everyone usually passed the sending test. In those days, as I remember, the receiving test was some sort of text of a maritime nature: one ship signaling another. It was not a ham radio QSO or anything like that, so it was completely unpredictable. You had to have a minute of solid copy to pass. John handed in his paper and waited for the results. The FCC examiner was a crusty old bastard and he was in a bad mood. He started going through a large stack of papers.

"Smith? Where are you Smith." Smith raised his hand. "FLUNK!" said the FCC man.

"Jones? Raise your hand Jones. Oh, there you are. FLUNK!" And so it went, one flunk after another, until he came to John's paper.

"McAlpine? Where is McAlpine?" John raise his shaking little hand, almost crawling under his desk at the same time.

"Come on up here son, and send some code for me."

...True Story!

K9W Makes International News

The Slovak Republic's version of the ARRL is the Slovak Amateur Radio Association. Here's the picture that was on the cover of the February issue of their equivalent of QST.



There's also an in-depth article about K9W, written by N2TU, and presumably translated by someone else into Slovak. Here are a couple of pictures from the article, with the captions translated, more or less, from Slovak into English:



Dick W3OA during SSB operation

Jim and Joe, N9TK and AA4NN, in the CW workplace



Instant Gratification

When Al Gore “invented” the Internet, (with a little help from guys like Len Kleinrock and Larry Roberts and others who actually invented and developed what’s now the Internet,) a new world of easy access to information and new ways to communicate quickly and easily all around the world (without using a ham rig!) came into being. For the first years of the Internet, getting at the information you wanted wasn’t that simple. The network, or patchwork of networks if you prefer, was there, but the user interface was for geeks only. Then, along came Tim Berners-Lee of CERN (The European Organization for Nuclear Research ...really) who came up with the basic underlying technologies and protocols on which the Word Wide Web is built, including HTML, URLs, and HTTP, and even the first browser and web server. From there, it’s just kinda gone crazy!

How does that relate to Ham Radio? ...only that it’s revolutionized the way we practice a hobby that’s a lot older than the Internet and the World Wide Web. Remember working a DX contest in the pre-WWW (and pre-PC) era? Paper logs, dupe sheets, and tuning around listening for multipliers? There are purists who still operate that way, wouldn’t do it any other way, and that’s great. For most of us though, thanks to technology, the information we need is right there in front of us, whether for contesting or general DXing, and we might as well use it: the spotting networks, computer-based logging and contesting programs, the CW sending and reading programs, RTTY without TTY machines and the smell of Teletype oil, software defined radios and Panadapters...and new modes like PSK 31, Olivia, JT65 (...it’s not just for moonbounce anymore) and many, many more. Even our transceivers are full of software and/or firmware to give us better receivers than we’ve ever had before, and they’re connected to our computer-based logging and spotting programs so that a click of the mouse button takes you to the station you want to work.

Another major difference, and where the whole “Instant Gratification” thing comes in for Hams, and not just for the kids of all ages using instant messaging, Facebook, Twitter et al, has to do with new ways to QSL. In the old days it was: have a QSO, send a QSL card, usually direct to US hams, and via the Bureau to DX, and then wait, and wait some more, with about a 25% chance of getting a QSL in return. Then send a 2nd card if needed

and wait some more. Especially since most DX cards went through the Bureaus in both directions, even *if* the DX station responded, it took months, if not years, to get that needed QSL.

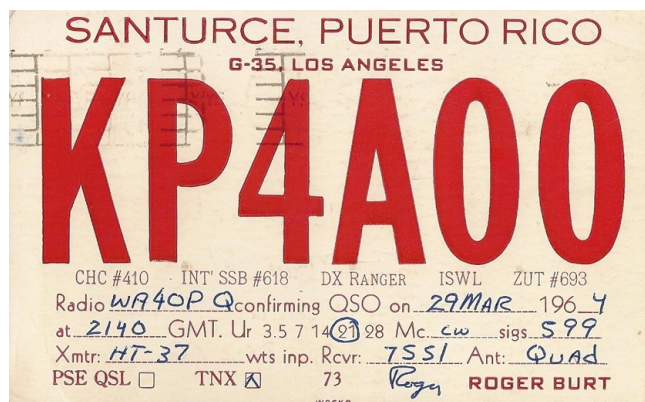
Today the real game changer is ARRL’s Logbook of the World - LoTW. With its latest improvements, and concomitant updates to computer-based logging programs, we can have a QSO or two or three, or a lot more, upload the details pretty much automatically to LoTW, and have them processed in most cases in a matter of minutes. There’s usually still at least a short wait for the contacted station to respond, and not everyone uses LoTW ...more on that in a minute. But, almost magically, on several occasions, I’ve logged onto LoTW after uploading QSOs, just to check that they were actually loaded, only to find a check mark by a QSO I had made just a few hours, or in one case, less than an hour, ago! The other stations had beaten me to the punch and had already uploaded the QSOs from their end. Now *that’s* Instant Gratification, especially since, on more than one occasion it was a station I needed for a new band or mode entity. Even with DXpeditions to the far ends of the earth, there’s usually quick feedback, through Clublog or directly via the DXpeditions website, that you’re in the log. At the end of most DXpeditions, you can request your QSL using OQRS (Online QSL Requests), and have it delivered directly to your mailbox, if you’re willing to cough up a small donation. You can also usually expect to see a confirmation show up quickly in LoTW. Last month, the TX6G DXpedition went above and beyond, by uploading their logs to LoTW *during* the DXpedition. (Thanks guys, for setting the example for future DXpeds!)

Certainly, not everyone uses LoTW, but my LoTW QSL ratio is about 49%! The overall ratio for all QSOs ever loaded onto LoTW, based on the numbers published on the LoTW home page, is about 15%. In my case, only QSOs I’ve made since moving to North Carolina and getting back on the air after a long hiatus are on LoTW, but many people have loaded ALL their QSOs onto LoTW, some dating back to the ‘50s (...right Roger?) I suspect that accounts for the low overall QSL rate. There’s also no doubt that there are a lot of hams around the world who still don’t use LoTW for one reason or another. It certainly isn’t usually lack of an Internet connection, since almost all of the non-LoTW users I’ve looked up on QRZ so I could send them a card have an email address, and most give detailed instructions on

their QRZ pages on how to send them QSLs. One guy I had a couple of QSOs with, and whose entity I needed for both bands on which I worked him, actually asked on his QRZ page for an email with QSO details so he wouldn't disappoint anyone who sent him a QSL card with an SAE and a couple of bucks by telling them that they weren't in his log. He responded almost immediately to my e-mail, verifying the QSOs ...but he won't use LoTW. Curious, but he's not alone. Some hams apparently just don't get the whole Instant Gratification thing. At least most folks who insist on a "real" QSL card are only looking to have their costs of returning a card to you covered, but there seem to be some who just want your money, like the guy I worked in a not-so-rare entity who wants six bucks for a QSL. (...he won't be getting it from me!)

I suspect and hope that there'll come a day when almost everyone is using LoTW, but I have to confess that it's still kind of fun to send off a QSL (along with the SAE and the green stamps of course) and open the mailbox every day with your fingers crossed. It's also fun to occasionally flip through old QSL cards. There are some that mean more than others, either because they were the first from some entity that seemed far off and exotic at the time, or because it's just a gorgeous card. Sometimes an old QSL card can be special for other reasons. For instance, take a look at the card from KP4AOO to a young kid in Georgia, WA4OPQ ... who's now NV4A. Who knew that I'd stumble on this card, which was in a stack of old cards I had misplaced a very long time ago, and which turned up when I was doing some filing in my home office?

In summary, enjoy whatever QSLs you get, but if you aren't on LoTW, you should be. The Instant Gratification is a kick!



CQ Publishes Results of the 2013 CQWW Contest

Dick Williams, W3OA

CQ has published the final results of last year's CQ World Wide Contest on the Web at <http://www.cqww.com/index.htm>. CDXA placed sixteenth among the 69 U.S. entries in the club competition. Our score was 39,074,381 points total for the SSB and CW contests. That's pretty respectable when you consider some of the clubs that beat us are a lot bigger than CDXA.

The two tables on the next page show our members' scores for the SSB and CW contests. They show, in alphabetical order, the calls of CDXA members who scored in the top half of their class as published by CQ. The last column shows the entrant's place in his class and the number of entrants in that class.

In addition:

In the CW contest, W4ZV placed ninth in the U.S. in the Single Band, 10 meter, class.

Also in the CW contest, K2SX was one of the three operators at PJ7W. That team scored 10,273,536 points operating from St. Maarten in the multi operator, single transmitter, class.

Mark your calendar for this year's CQWW contests. SSB is the weekend of October 24, CW the weekend of November 28. Get going on those antenna projects now so you'll be ready in October!

SSB:

Call	Final Score	Area	Class	Place/No in Class
AA4R	2,429,500	US – Call Area 8	Single Op, High Power, Assisted	4/30
AG4C	788,420	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, Assisted	26/88
K2SD	368,528	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, Assisted	40/88
K4FS	535,920	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Low Power	5/117
K4ML	108,216	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Low Power	27/117
K4NC	448,800	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Low Power	9/117
K5EK	2,736,872	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, Assisted	3/88
KU4V	1,055,700	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power	6/62
N4DKF	54,349	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Low Power	52/117
N4ZC	4,121,815	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, Assisted	2/88
NV4A	471,776	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, Assisted	34/88
W3GQ	1,970,052	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, Assisted	11/88
W3OA	2,140,635	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, Assisted	6/88
W4GRW	29,452	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, Single Band (10 mtrs.)	8/16
W4WNT	202,048	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Low Power, Assisted	7/39
W7DO	1,352,232	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, Assisted	17/88
WW4CP	540,144	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, Assisted	31/88

CW:

Call	Final Score	Area	Class	Place/No in Class
AA4R	1,238,441	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Low Power, Assisted	6/50
AA4V	596,568	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, Assisted	36/87
IN3QBR	157,050	Italy	Single Op, Low Power, Assisted	10/20
K2SD	569,772	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, Assisted	38/87
K4LY	93,338	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, Assisted, Single Band (80 mtrs.)	2/5
K4NC	501,008	US – Call Area 4	Classic	14/28
K5EK	2,924,748	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, Assisted	3/87
K6RM	258,240	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Low Power	20/62
K7BV	1,221,000	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, Assisted	25/87
K8YC	272,096	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Low Power, Assisted	15/50
W3GQ	2,638,211	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, Assisted	6/87
W3OA	1,077,440	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, Assisted	28/87
W3SA	150,930	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Low Power	26/62
W3ZL	679,712	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Low Power, Assisted	9/50
W4NZC	108,780	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Low Power	29/62
W4WNT	137,712	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Low Power, Assisted	21/50
W4ZV	285,192	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, Single Band (10 mtrs.)	3/5
W7DO	2,023,112	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, Assisted	10/87

The Back Page

- Check out all the low-down on the upcoming Field Day, on Page 1.
- The DX King Competition is going strong. The latest standings are on Page 2.
- Some CDXAers journeyed to Raleigh for RARSfest. It was worth the trip. See the details and a list of new members signed up in Raleigh on Page 3.
- The Wayback Machine takes a look at one ham's trip to the FCC to take his General Exam.
- K9W is in the news again, this time in the Slovak Republic. Check out the smiling face of N2TU on Page 4.
- Does LoTW really give us Instant Gratification?maybe not quite, but it's certainly a great resource. See Page 5.
- The results from the 2013 CQWW are in. Check out Pages 6 and 7.
- The *Pileup* will be on vacation next month, so we'll be back in July.
- In the meantime, please take a few minutes to tell me about your FCC license exam experience ...or, as usual, anything else you'd like to see in the *Pileup*.

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First Class Mail

See something wrong with your address label? Notify W3ZL at once, please.